

wherein a second sheet transporting path extending substantially vertically is defined by a surface of said scanner apparatus on which said reading element is provided, and a surface of said base apparatus which faces to said scanner apparatus in a case where said scanner apparatus is mounted on said base apparatus,

and wherein said scanner apparatus includes a pick roller provided at a location upstream of said second sheet transporting path as viewed in a sheet transporting direction and includes a feed roller provided at locations downstream of said second sheet transporting path, said first and second sheet transporting paths being provided along and adjacent to each other, and wherein said scanner apparatus is so implemented as to be capable of operating as a hand scanner in a case where said scanner apparatus is detached from said base apparatus.

Claim 8 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

8. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said scanner apparatus has a protecting member, provided in a manner projecting at a side of said surface of said scanner apparatus, protecting said pick roller in a case where said scanner apparatus is used as a hand scanner.

Please rewrite Claim 9 as follows:

9. (AMENDED) An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said protecting member is provided at a location outside of a reading area of said scanner apparatus.

Claim 10 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

10. An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein an accommodating part accommodating said protecting member is provided in the surface of said base apparatus facing toward said protecting member.

Claim 19 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

19. An apparatus comprising:

a base unit including a part of a sheet transporting mechanism;

a scanner apparatus which can be removably mounted on said base unit and includes at least the other part of said sheet transporting mechanism and a reading element;

5 a scanner mounting portion provided on said base unit and adapted to removably mount said scanner apparatus on said base unit; and

an engaging portion provided on said scanner apparatus and adapted to engage said scanner mounting portion,

10 wherein either said scanner mounting portion of said base unit or said engaging portion of said scanner apparatus is a pivotal shaft for allowing said scanner apparatus to rotate frontwards, while the other is in the form of a holding member for holding said pivotal shaft.

Claim 20 has not been changed by this Amendment and continues to read as follows:

20. An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said scanner apparatus is so implemented as to be capable of operating as a hand scanner in a case where said scanner apparatus is detached from said base unit.



Claim 21 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

21. An apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

a lock member locking said scanner apparatus in a state mounted on said base unit.

Claim 22 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

22. An apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

a rotation limiting stopper preventing said scanner apparatus from swinging excessively frontwards of said apparatus in a case where said scanner apparatus is attached to or detached from said base unit.

Claim 23 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

23. An apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

a deviation preventing stopper preventing said scanner apparatus from displacing upwardly of said apparatus in a case where said scanner apparatus is mounted on said base unit.

Claim 24 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

24. An apparatus, comprising:

a base unit including a part of a sheet transporting mechanism;

a scanner apparatus which can be removably mounted on said base unit and

includes the other part of said sheet transporting mechanism and a reading element;

a scanner mounting portion provided on said base unit and adapted to removably

mount said scanner apparatus on said base unit;

and an engaging portion provided on said scanner apparatus and adapted to engage said scanner mounting portion,

10 wherein a sheet guide provided on said scanner apparatus and a sheet guide provided on said base unit are faced to each other, so that a space defined between said two sheet guides becomes gradually narrower toward a sheet withdrawal port, and offset member is provided for at least one of said two sheet guides for stepwise limiting moving of a sheet toward said sheet withdrawal port.

Claim 25 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

25. An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said scanner apparatus is so implemented as to be capable of operating as a hand scanner in a case where said scanner apparatus is detached from said base unit.

Please amend Claim 34 as follows:

5.5 G.1 > 12 34. (AMENDED) An apparatus, comprising:
a base apparatus which includes a first sheet transporting path extending substantially vertically and performs a first processing for a sheet traveling along said first sheet transporting path; and
5 a scanner apparatus which can be removably mounted on said base apparatus and includes a reading element, wherein a second sheet transporting path extending

substantially vertically is defined by a surface of said scanner apparatus on which said reading element is provided, and a surface of said base apparatus which faces toward said scanner apparatus when said scanner apparatus is mounted on said base apparatus, said first and second sheet transporting paths being provided along and adjacent to each other, and wherein said scanner apparatus may be detached from said base apparatus so as to operate as a hand scanner.

Claim 35 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

35. An apparatus according to claim 34, wherein said scanner apparatus includes at least one pick roller provided on a surface where said reading element is provided, and a protecting member projecting at a side of said surface and protecting said pick roller when said scanner apparatus is used as a hand scanner.

Claim 36 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

36. An apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said protecting member is provided at a location outside of a reading area of said scanner apparatus.

Claim 37 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

37. An apparatus according to claim 34, wherein said base apparatus includes a first sheet guide provided at a location upstream of said second sheet transporting path, and said scanner apparatus includes a second sheet guide provided at a location upstream of

said second sheet transporting path, and wherein said first and second sheet guides face
5 each other in a manner that a space between said first and second sheet guides gradually
narrows toward said second sheet transporting path in a case where said scanner apparatus
is mounted on said base apparatus.

Claim 38 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

38. A multiple function apparatus, comprising:

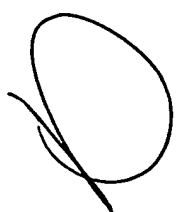
a first transporting guide including a straight guide part and a deflecting guide part,
said straight guide part being formed so as to transport a first sheet straight and is open at
one end, and said deflecting guide part being connected to said straight guide part at a side
5 opposite said one end so as to transport a first sheet in a direction different from a direction
of transport effected by said straight guide part;

a first apparatus provided at said deflecting guide part, and performing processing
for said first sheet in a case where said first sheet is transported along said deflecting guide
part;

10 a second transporting guide, provided along said first transporting guide, being
formed so as to transport a second sheet;

a second apparatus, provided at said second transporting guide, and performing
processing for said second sheet in a case where said second sheet is transported along said
second transporting guide;

15 wherein said first apparatus is disposed in a space between said deflecting guide



part and said second transporting guide, and at least at one portion of a section at which said first apparatus is disposed, said section included in said deflection guide part, a distance between said one portion and said second transporting guide in a direction vertical to transporting direction of said deflecting guide portion is longer than a distance between said straight guide part and second transporting guide.

Claim 39 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

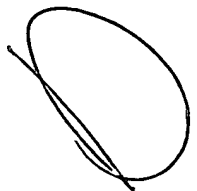
39. A multiple function apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said second apparatus is provided opposite of said first transporting guide with respect to said second transporting guide.

Claim 40 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

40. A multiple function apparatus according to claim 38, wherein a direction of transport of said first sheet effected by said straight guide part and a direction of transport of said second sheet effected by a portion of said second transporting guide which faces to said straight guide part form an angle smaller than 90 degrees with the vertical direction in a case where said multiple function apparatus is provided for use.

Claim 41 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

41. A multiple function apparatus according to claim 38, further comprising:
a first transporting mechanism transporting said first sheet from said straight guide



part of said first transporting guide toward said deflecting guide part;

5 a second transporting mechanism transporting said second sheet by said second transporting guide in a manner that said second sheet is transported in substantially a same direction as said first sheet;

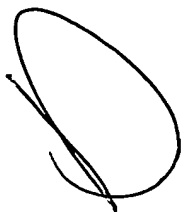
a first sheet delivery port for delivery of said first sheet from said multiple function apparatus, said first delivery port being provided at a location downstream of said deflecting guide part as viewed in a direction of transport of said first sheet; and

10 a second sheet delivery port for delivery of said second sheet from said multiple function apparatus, said second sheet delivery port being provided at a location downstream of said second transporting guide as viewed in a direction of transport of said second sheet,

15 wherein said first and second sheet delivery ports are provided at a same side of said multiple function apparatus.

Claim 42 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

42. A multiple function apparatus according to claim 40, wherein said second transporting guide is provided closer to the front side of said multiple function apparatus than is said first transporting guide, said first apparatus is an image forming apparatus, said second apparatus is a scanner, a sheet accommodating part is provided at a location
5 upstream of said first transporting guide as viewed in said sheet transporting direction, said sheet accommodating part accommodates a plurality of sheets to be fed to said first



transporting guide.

Claim 43 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

43. A multiple function apparatus according to claim 42, wherein a portion of said second transporting guide which faces to said deflecting guide part serves as a part of a cover of said multiple function apparatus and covers said image forming apparatus.

Claim 44 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

44. A multiple function apparatus according to claim 42, wherein a portion of said second transporting guide which faces to said deflecting guide part is movable, so that said image forming apparatus can be exposed.

Claim 45 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

45. A multiple function apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said first apparatus and said second apparatus are provided in such a positional relation as to overlap each other in the vertical direction in a case where said multiple function apparatus is in use.

Please rewrite Claim 46 as follows:

24 46. (AMENDED) An apparatus, comprising:
a base unit;

5 a scanner apparatus which includes a reading element and can be removably mounted on said base unit;

5 a scanner mounting portion provided on said base unit and adapted to removably mount said scanner apparatus on said base unit; and

10 an engaging portion provided on said scanner apparatus and adapted to engage said scanner mounting portion, wherein a sheet transporting path is defined by a surface of said scanner apparatus on which said reading element is provided, and a surface of said base unit which faces to said scanner apparatus in a case where said scanner apparatus is mounted on said base unit, and said engaging portion and said scanner mounting portion hold said scanner apparatus in a manner that said scanner apparatus can be rotate to a direction that said sheet transporting path is open.

Claim 47 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

47. An apparatus according to claim 46, wherein a sheet transporting direction of said sheet transporting path is substantially vertical, and said engaging portion and said scanner mounting portion hold said scanner apparatus such that said scanner apparatus can rotate about a lower portion thereof in a state mounted on said base unit.

Claim 48 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

48. An apparatus according to claim 46, further comprising:

a lock member locking said scanner apparatus in a state mounted on said base unit.

Claim 49 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

49. An apparatus according to claim 46, further comprising:
a rotation limiting stopper preventing said scanner apparatus from swinging excessively.

Claim 50 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

50. An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said base unit is an image forming apparatus.

Claim 51 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

51. An apparatus, comprising:
a base unit including a part of a sheet transporting mechanism;
a scanner apparatus which can be removably mounted on said base unit and includes the other part of said sheet transporting mechanism and a reading element;
5 a scanner mounting portion provided on said base unit and adapted to removably mount said scanner apparatus on said base unit; and
an engaging portion provided on said scanner apparatus and adapted to engage said scanner mounting portion,

10

wherein a sheet guide provided on said scanner apparatus and a sheet guide provided on said base unit are faced to each other, so that a space defined between said sheet guides becomes gradually narrower toward a sheet withdrawal port.

Please rewrite Claim 52 as follows:

31 ~~52.~~ (AMENDED) An apparatus, comprising:

a base apparatus;

a scanner apparatus which can be removably mounted on said base apparatus and includes a reading element;

5

and a sheet transporting path defined by a surface of said scanner apparatus on which said reading element is provided, and a surface of said base apparatus which faces toward said reading element in a case where said scanner apparatus is mounted on said base apparatus;

at least one device disposed in said base apparatus; and

10

a cover of said base apparatus guiding a sheet delivered from said sheet transporting path and covering said device;

wherein said cover can move so that said device is exposed.

Claim 53 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

53. An apparatus according to claim 52, wherein said cover can be opened and

closed.

Claim 54 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

54. An apparatus according to claim 52, wherein said cover can be removed.

Claim 55 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

55. An apparatus according to claim 52, wherein said base apparatus is an image forming apparatus.

Claim 56 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

56. An apparatus according to claim 52, wherein said base apparatus is an image forming apparatus, and a sheet guide of a sheet delivery portion of said image forming apparatus and a sheet guide of a sheet delivery portion of said scanner apparatus are provided adjacent to each other.

Claim 57 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

57. An apparatus according to claim 52, wherein said base apparatus is an image forming apparatus, and a sheet guide of a sheet feeding portion of said image forming

apparatus and a sheet guide of a sheet feeding portion of said scanner apparatus are provided adjacent to each other.

Claim 58 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

58. An apparatus according to claim 52, wherein said base apparatus is an image-forming apparatus, and a sheet feeding portion of said scanner apparatus is provided frontward with respect to a sheet feeding portion of said image forming apparatus.

Claim 59 has not been changed by this amendment and continues to read as follows:

59. A multiple-function apparatus, comprising:

an image forming apparatus including a sheet transporting path extending substantially vertically;

a scanner apparatus of an automatic sheet feeding type and including a sheet transporting path extending substantially vertically; and

at least one device disposed in said image forming apparatus;

wherein said sheet transporting paths of said scanner apparatus and said image forming apparatus are provided adjacent to each other, and a sheet guide provided at least at a part of said sheet transporting path of said scanner apparatus serves as a cover for said device disposed in said image forming apparatus and said sheet guide can move so that said device is exposed.

